

H. Hamilton A. (London)
VINDICATION

Of the L A T E

Governor and Council

O F

J A M A I C A.

Occasion'd by

A LETTER in the *St. James's*
Post of the 23^d of *July* last, as
from BATH.

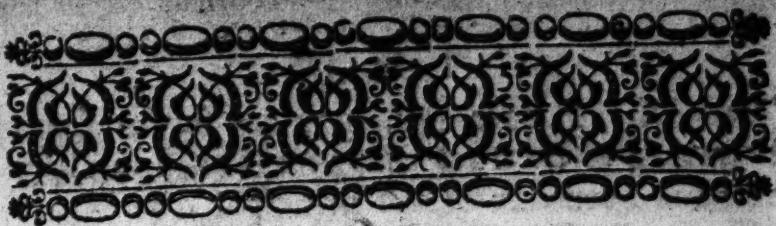
In a LETTER to —

L O N D O N :

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A
LETTER
TO A
FRIEND, &c.

S I R,



AM much obliged to you for sending me the *St. James's Post* of the 21st, which has in it a Letter dated the 13th Instant from *Bath*; and in compliance with your Request, I will consider it.

And first I beg leave to observe, that the Writer says, " He is unacquainted with the
" Reasons for the Removal of the late Go-
" vernor and Council, and that he has not the
" good Fortune to be either Brother, Kinf-
" man, or Countryman of Mr. Beckford."

The first, I dare say, you are so far from believing to be true, that you look upon him to have been one of the principal Agents, as also the Person who prepared the Affidavits of Dr. Page and Mr. Arlington ; and if you acquit him of the other, yet you will not of having been a Champion for the late Duke of Ormond, as Page was for Dr. Sacheverel and Hereditary Right ; nor of having been recommended for a Post in Jamaica by Mr. Gascoigne, lately executed at Tyburn.

I am not a little surpriz'd, that these Men should make Insinuations of others as to their Principles in Politicks ; but to use the Writers own Words, *They were so intent upon exposing the late Governor and Council, that they forgot how naked they stood for a Retortion.* And to proceed, he says, *Before I come to answer that cruel Resolution, which as he has not thought fit I shall give :* “ In regard that
 “ Mr. Beckford was the chief Actor in all the
 “ unhappy Differences in the Country, and
 “ had opposed his Majesty's Government in
 “ all the Measures taken for its Service, and
 “ even his Majesty's own Instructions and
 “ his gracious Letter, the Board were unanimously of Opinion, it was inconsistent
 “ with his Majesty's Service to admit him
 “ into an Office, which required the greatest Confidence of the Government in the
 “ Officer, and the greatest Service of any
 “ Officer to the Government.

If this be a cruel Resolution, it was likewise Cruel in Lord Hamilton to tell Mr.
 Beckford

Beckford in Council, " That he looked upon
 " him as the Principal Person who had been
 " the Occasion of all the Misfortunes the I-
 " sland had labour'd under since his coming
 " to the Government, and therefore he could
 " not think it for the Service of his Maje-
 " sty, or the Island, to admit him into the
 " Secretary's Office.

'Twas these Passages in the Minutes of the
 Council of *Jamaica* of the 9th of *March*,
 which occasioned the Writer to exclaim in
 the following manner: " Every Man who
 " has in him the Sentiments of a Gentle-
 " man, or who is acquainted with our Laws,
 " must be amaz'd, that a Set of *Englishmen*
 " should tear to pieces the Reputation of a
 " Fellow-Subject, and pronounce him Guil-
 " ty of the greatest Contempt to his Sove-
 " reign, without hearing his Defence, or
 " examining into his Offence, and without
 " any Shadow of Reason that I can hear of,
 " other than that Mr. *Beckford* has a better
 " Estate in *Jamaica* than the Governor and
 " Council, now removed, were all their E-
 " states computed together, and that he is
 " better liked and more esteem'd by the Peo-
 " ple, than all, or any, of that Council-
 " Board.

If what is here advanc'd were true,
 which I am sure it is not, the Country would
 be much unhappier than I apprehend it at
 present; for what is not to be expected from
 a Man of Mr. *Beckford's* implacable Spirit?
 But his great Estate, and his being better
 liked,

liked and more esteemed by the People than all or any of the Council, is not my present Business to examine, nor was it the Business of the Council to hear Mr. Beckford in his Defence against their own Resolution ; nor was there any room to examine into the Particulars of his Conduct on this occasion, the General which stand upon Record in the Minutes of the Council and Assembly for many Years past, being sufficient to refuse his Deputation for the Reasons therein appearing. *Therefore they did not tear to pieces the Reputation of a Fellow-Subject, or pronounce him Guilty of the greatest Contempt to his Sovereign, without any Shadow of Reason ;* and were there proper occasion, infinite Particulars would be produced, to make that Charge against him good.

But is it not pleasant to have him who, with others, have been so regardless of the Reputations and Honour of the late Governor and Council, talking in such a Strain, and using Language only applicable to him and his Brother Agents, he must never pretend to be endowed *with the Sentiments of a Gentleman, or to be acquainted with our Laws.* who can affirm to the World, “ That the
 “ Council were assenting to Robberies committed on the *Spaniards* : That they were
 “ always of any Opinion his Excellency was
 “ of : That he played them off to give a
 “ Sanction to his own Opinion of Men and
 “ Things : That their Determination had an
 “ Analogy to the Star-Chamber, and the
 “ Peremptory Orders of King *James* the
 “ Second’s

“ Second’s Reign ; and that by unprecedented-
 “ ed Methods, they Resolved Men out of
 “ their Properties.

This is a very heavy Charge, and if it can be made out, the Governor and Council deserve much severer Usage at the Hands of the Government, than any they have met with yet, or can meet with, even from the Men who are invested with the Power of the Government of *Jamaica* ; but if it be not made out, (as I am sure it cannot in any one particular) ’tis most extraordinary Treatment, and no Punishment can be too great to be inflicted on the Writer, who to make his Court to some, or more particularly one of them, would insinuate, as if some of the Council were absent on the 9th of *March* ; but by the Minutes of that Day it does appear, every Counsellor then in *Jamaica* was present, and the Resolution unanimous, therefore all are alike involv’d in the following Charge, “ That they assumed the Jurisdiction of a Matter improperly before them, “ and summarily determined the Subjects “ Property, without more Ceremony than “ reading a Deed, on which the Point in “ Question did not ever turn.

This Matter was brought before the Council by the Governor, upon the first Notice he had of Mr. *Page’s* being gone for *England*, without any Ticket of Leave, or Entering into any Security in the Secretary’s Office, or putting up his Name according to Law. And upon Application made by Mr. *Beckford*,

ford, to admit either Mr. *Wagstaffe* or himself into the Execution of the Secretary's Office, who desired their Opinion thereupon, till which time he deferred giving Mr. *Beckford* any Answer ; and the Question before them was not a determination of Property, but whether Mr. *Wagstaffe* or Mr. *Beckford* were proper Persons to be entrusted with the Secretary's Office ? Which the Council, after examining Mr. *Beckford* and Mr. *Wagstaffe* on the Deputation and Power of Attorney left by *Page*, determined in the Negative ; and accordingly the Governor, (who had an undoubted Right to approve the Deputy by these Words in Mr. *Congreve's* Patent, *To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said Office, by himself, or such his sufficient Deputy, as shall be first approved by our Governor*) acted in Conformity to their Advice, and upon the Authority of the King's Letters Patents.

This I am fully perswaded, as well justifies the Governor and Council, as shews the *Folly and Ignorance, Insolence and Arrogance* of the Writer, in saying, " This was the Decision made by the Council on the reading
 " Mr. *Page's* Deputation, without reading
 " Mr. *Congreve's* Patent, on which the Deputation was dependant, or having a
 " determination of the Question in any
 " Court, or any proof of what they proceeded upon ; which has such an Analogy
 " to the Star-Chamber, and the peremptory
 " Orders of King *James the Second's* Reign,
 " that I can't help thinking, the Governor
 " and Council have taken an unfortunate
 " Oppor-

“ Opportunity of appearing in Print, but
 “ they were so intent upon exposing Mr.
 “ Beckford, that they forgot how naked they
 “ stood for a Retortion.

Then he goes on, *But to satisfy the World how unjust and unprovoked the Censure contained in that Journal was, I'll state the Opposition to his Majesty's Government alluded to by those Patriots, which I shall now consider.*

And First, If we do but consider the very great Difference of a Trade between Great Britain and France on the Foot of the Treaty of Commerce, and a Trade that can be carried on between the English and French in America; we shall not acquit Mr. Beckford of opposing his present Majesty's Interest, by Voting against a French Commerce in Jamaica. And if the Dispute between Lord Hamilton and Sir Hovenden Walker were but made publick, it would appear, That the late Governor did not propose nor send a Person to open a Trade with the French to lessen the Value of the Sugar and Indigo of Jamaica; but such Person was sent to the Governor of Petiguavas, in pursuance of an Order from the Lord Dartmouth, to acquaint them of the Cessation of Arms, and to make an Exchange of Prisoners, &c. As likewise that Mr. Beckford, and three or four more Assemblymen, took part with Sir Hovenden Walker against my Lord Archibald Hamilton, whose Dispute with the Admiral was not Personal, but in Maintainance of that Power and Authority intrusted to him,

him, the Securing the Trade of the Island, and Defending the Liberties of the Inhabitants.

2. If Mr. Beckford, with the Majority of the Assembly, voted an Enquiry into the Stores of War, and the State of the Fortifications, and a Muster of the Soldiers ; it must be observed, it was insisted to be solely her Majesty's Prerogative not to allow them such Power or Liberty, unless asked Leave ; which they so far forgot themselves, as not to Address the Governor for it at first ; but as soon as this was done, Leave was given. As one Assembly would have taken so Essential a Part of the Prerogative to themselves, and invested themselves with a Power never pretended to be assumed by any former Assembly ; So the very last Resolved a Subscription should be set on foot to solicit in England the Affairs of the Island, and that it be recommended to their respective Parishes by their respective Members.

I forbear saying any thing of the Consequences of such Proceedings. If an immediate Stop be not put to them by the Government here, or giving any hard Name to them, or making any Parallel of them ; but cannot refrain declaring, that Assemblies in Jamaica have of late Years attempted to assume the Executive Part of the Government, and wrest all Power out of the Hands of the Governor and Council.

3. If

3. If the Governor dissolved two Assemblies to screen some of his Advisers ; it may be safely advanc'd, that it was not at their Instigation, for as they had in their Advice, as well as publick Actings, always endeavoured his Majesty's Service and the Good of the Island, they neither wanted it, nor had any thing to fear from the sitting of an Assembly. But it is not likely the Governour would dissolve an Assembly on such Account, when the Council had declared, (which an Assembly never did) *That no Officer of his Majesty's attending that Board, nor even any Member of it, should be privileged or protected from Justice or Suit of Law.* But if some Men have been ill Advisers, why has it not been shewn wherein, and publick Complaint made against such Men, a Charge lodged and avowed to be made good ? Or why has it not been shewn, what illegal Acts have been done, or Acts of Mal-Administration committed by Lord *Hamilton* in pursuance of such Advice ? But this has not been done, and till it be, 'tis Nonsense and Calumny to term Men ill Advisers of the Governor. And I find my Lord *Hamilton*, in a Speech to one of the Assemblies, who we are told was so dissolved, thus expressing himself : “ Once
“ more, Gentlemen, I do earnestly recom-
“ mend to you a good Agreement and Dis-
“ patch, laying aside all former Animosities
“ and Resentments ; as for my part, there
“ is nothing can reasonably be expected of
“ me, that I am not ready to go into for
“ your satisfaction ; if any real Grievance

" or Pressure shall appear, I'll concur with
 " you to the utmost of my Power to redress
 " it; but if Passion, Prejudice, or Private
 " Views should create imaginary Ones, they
 " are to be unregarded. Let then no other
 " Strife or Emulation appear in this Island,
 " but who shall shew most Zeal, Duty and
 " Good-will to the present happy Establish-
 " ment, not by opposing the Government,
 " but by strengthening and supporting it.

4. If the Governor, in the Interval of Assem-
 blies, raised and applied Money with his own Au-
 thority, in the manner artfully suggested by
 the Letter, that is, contrary to and without
 any Law to warrant it, he should never have
 had me to set Pen to Paper in his Defence;
 but for what he has done of this kind, he
 merits not only the Thanks of the Island of
 Jamaica, but the Government here: His
 raising of Money was out of his own Es-
 tate, and on his own Credit, and his ap-
 plying it was towards the better Subsistence
 of the Soldiers.

This is the only way he has raised and ap-
 plied Money in the Interval of Assemblies; and
 this is what we are told, he would have a sub-
 sequent Assembly establish as Legal, under Colour
 of an Expression in his Majesty's Letter, that de-
 sired Provision should be made for Publick Debts.
 And tho' the Assembly refused to pay him
 the same, after having found the same to
 have been so raised and laid out on the Pub-
 lick Account only, yet the Council declared,
 " That the said Debt was Just, and ought to be
 " paid;

“ paid ; and that they could not conceive the As-
 “ semblies paying the same could be any ways in-
 “ fringing on the Liberties of the People, or be-
 “ traying the Trust reposed in them.

5. If Mr. Beckford indeed, nor any of the As-
 sembly could apprehend, that his Majesty meant
 more by Publick Debts than those Debts which the
 Funds fell short of answering, yet the Council
 apprehended otherwise, and in a Report
 made the 12th of November 1715. by Colo-
 nel Heywood, say “ That upon perusal of
 “ the Representation laid before his Maje-
 “ sty concerning the State of this Island, to
 “ which his Majesty’s Letter has Reference,
 “ they are of Opinion, That his Majesty had
 “ then in view, the Money advanced by his
 “ Excellency and the Council for supporting
 “ the Soldiers, as one of the Publick Debts,
 “ it being particularly mentioned in the said
 “ Representation.

6. If the Assembly voted it against the Consti-
 tution of England to raise Money without consent
 of the People representatively ; who would not
 imagine but that some such Attempt had
 been made, or Money was so raised in
 Jamaica, but nothing like it, nor any thing
 to justify so base and malicious a Calumny,
 unless the Governor and Councils advancing
 considerable Sums out of their own Pockets
 for the better Subsistence of the Soldiers, can
 be construed to raise Money without the consent
 of the People representatively ; Who, as the
 Governor could not disband, nor send
 home, without an Allowance over and
 above

above their British Pay, must have starved, or would have run into great Irregularities.

7. If all the Council, except Colonel Heywood, refused to pass a Law for the Encouragement of White People, whereby large Sums were to be raised, and certain Commissioners therein named for raising and applying the same; for that the Money to arise thereby was not payable into the Treasury, (in which case, by the by, the Governor, with their Advice, would have the issuing it out); they were very much in the right, for in the Governor's Patent and Instructions it is declared, That all Money to be raised by any Act whatsoever, shall be issued by Warrant of the Governor, with the Advice of the Council; which could not be done in a Commissioners Hand, and this appears from the Patent itself, was what they were to fence against, and get the Power of to themselves. But tho' Assemblies have been permitted to raise and appropriate Money, and also a Liberty of inspecting the Publick Accounts, yet not by any Governor's Patent or Instructions, to insert any Clause in any Law for levying Money, whereby the same shall not be liable to be accounted for unto his Majesty, or the Commissioners of the Treasury, or High-Treasurer for the Time being.

8. If Mr. Beckford opposed and complained of the Governor's and Council dispensing with an Act for appropriating Money; He was the principal Person that occasioned it, and which the Governor and Council were obliged to from the
most

most pressing and absolute Necessities of the Government ; and it must be considered, that as the Commissioners Bond for the performance of his Trust and due Execution of the Act, was given to the Crown, not to the Assembly, or any Member of it, so the Money taken out of his Hands, and paid to that of the Receiver-General, had lain useless to the Publick for more than Three Years ; and I can't think but the Governor and Council may be very well justified in what they have done from the King's Instructions, and other the Acts of some part of the Government here. And as to the Governor's ordering the Commissioners Bond to be cancell'd, and applying the Money to different Uses than directed by the Act, (which was no Use at all) it was a Consequence of taking the Money out of the Hands it was in ; and if he is justified in doing that, he will in ordering the Bond to be cancell'd ; and it will then be seen, he has strictly applied such Money to the Publick Service, and to pay the Publick Debts of the Island.

9. If *Mr. Beckford countenanced and advised the Spaniard sent by the Admiral of the Flota* ; it is no more than was conjectured upon *Page's* making the *Spanish Complaint* ; but if I can believe any thing, it was not with any intent to get the *Spaniards* a Restitution of the Money taken from them, but the better to effect what considerable Sums of Money was collected for by him and others, which no doubt will have the Consideration of some future Governor, Council and Assembly,

bly, and an effectual Stop put to it by the Government here, and that was a Removal of the Lord Archibald Hamilton from being Governor, and many Gentlemen from being of the Council in that Island.

10. If the Governor and Council were assenting to the Robberies committed on the Spaniards by the Seamen of Jamaica, and thought unfit to direct any Restitution of the Money; I must confess, that in my Opinion they deserve no better Treatment than Pyrates; but not any thing like this has been proved upon them, nor doth Mr. Page's hear-say Affidavit come up to it; and if I am rightly informed, the Governor by and with the Advice of his Council, not only issued out a Proclamation to recall all Vessels gone on the Wrecks or elsewhere belonging to the Island, but proceeded judiciously against some Seamen for committing Pyracies, and acting in breach of his Commission and Instructions.

The Writer owns he has conversed with Commanders of Ships and Passengers lately arrived from Jamaica, and therefore cannot but have heard that this is strictly true, and a Spanish Gentleman arrived a few Days ago from Jamaica (who is of much greater Credit than those under the Tuition and Direction of Mr. Beckford) has declared to Publick Ministers, what not only confirms this, but makes entirely for the Justification and Honour of Lord Hamilton and the Council, and is to the Reproach and Discredit of those who, by recommending Page, &c. to them, were
the

the occasion of the Ministry's advising so hasty and so extraordinary a Turn in the Government of *Jamaica*.

Thus I have examined all the several Paragraphs stated in opposition to his Majesty's Government, alluded to by those Patriots, unless one of issuing Writts privately; and only giving 3 Hours notice of an Election, and another of giving Leave to Foreigners; who come into *Jamaica*, to sell great Quantities of Goods there, which deserve no notice, since I am perswaded, no Body can believe the Governor would be so weak as to act in breach of so many direct Laws, with Penalties upon him; and I hope sufficiently made out, that the Writer has not satisfy'd the World how unjust and unprovoked the Censure in the *Joarnal* was; nor that Mr. Beckford has a fairer Claim to the Confidence of an English Government, than those who voted him unequal to it.

It is pretty remarkable, that a few Days before Mr. Page's Arrival, the Agents and Friends of Mr. Beckford were justifying the permitting so many Sloops to go on the Wrecks, and pleasing themselves with great Sums of Money being brought by them into the Island; whilst others were concern'd at it, as fearing the Consequence. One was for pushing on a Change of Government, &c. there, and the other humbly inform his Majesty, that they are apprehensive such Alterations may sensibly effect their Estates and Properties, and may be detrimental to his Majesty's

Service, and the Publick Good of *Jamaica*. The one regard not whether *Page's* Complaint be true or not, or whether the Orders given upon it, may be dangerous to the Liberty of the Inhabitants, and ruinous to the Trade of the Island, so they can have their Spleen and Passion against particular Men gratify'd : The other humbly acquaint his Majesty, That they conceive, if his Majesty shall be graciously pleased, that the Complaint against the Governor be examined, he will not be induced to recal him, at least, to entrust any Powers with Persons, who it is justly apprehended, will involve the Innocent with the Guilty, and may be detrimental to the Island.

As remarkable as these Men's Conduct, has been Mr. *Beckford's* in *Jamaica*, and Mr. *Page's* here, in relation to Mr. *Cheplyn*, *Galdy*, and others, Owners of and Securities for Vessels, went on the Wrecks ; but I shall not enter into a Detail of it, further than observing, that Mr. *Page*, in his List of Counsellors gave in Mr. *Cheplyn*, who was placed at the Head of the Board, tho' concern'd in and Security for some Vessels ; and in his List of Vessels, returned Mr. *Galdy's* innoxious, and gives no Security Names against them as against all the rest, tho' the first committed Hostilities upon the *Spaniards*.

It gives me great Concern to hear it so generally taken for granted, that the Removal of the late Governor and Council was

occasioned by a Violation of the Peace between his Majesty King George and the King of Spain, and that they were assenting to Robberies committed on the Spaniards. For though I am sure they are Men of too great Understanding, and have too great a Love for their Country, to be guilty of any such Acts, and intirely innocent of the Charge laid to them, yet they are not only suffering in their Fortunes and Honours for the present, but might in great measure suffer in both all their Days, according to the colourable Insinuations against them. I hope this will be so far from being their Case, that a Declaration of their Innocency will be made Publick, and a Mark of Infamy set upon Page and other their Accusers.

In this Letter and other Papers it is insinuated, that Lord Hamilton and the Council were approvers of the Peace, and in the Interest of the late Ministry; which, as it does not concern the Matter in Dispute, so neither would it have any influence, if considered, who were the Persons that upon Notice of the Peace, were immediately for disbanding or sending home the Soldiers? and in order to it, not only first refused giving them an Additional Subsistence any longer, but addressed her Majesty to such purpose. Which Address was not joyned in by the Governor or Council, but sent home by Mr. Beckford, then Speaker of the Assembly, to Mr. Aylmer, and by him delivered to the late Lord Bolingbroke.

If the Governor and Council were in the Interest of the late Ministry ; 'twas their Misfortune that the Ministers did not know it, that they might have been better treated by them, or that others should then be thought in their Interest, who now are so happy as to be thought the only Men in *Jamaica* in the Interest of the present Ministry ; but to speak the Truth, in the Queen's latter Days, the Governor and Council were denominated *Whigs*, as they are now *Tories*, to which I shall not say any thing, but acquaint you, that it was offered in a late Memorial to be made appear, " That the Counsellors removed, were for Estates and Abilities, superior, in their Zeal for the Protestant Succession, at least equal, and in their Endeavours for the Good of *Jamaica* and his Majesty's Service, abundantly surpassing those that did succeed them.

Thus much for the Council ; and for Lord *Hamilton* it may be necessary to observe, That he never had an Answer to any one Letter from his first Arrival in *July* 1711, till *Sept.* 1714. and that only a Letter from the Board of Trade in Answer to one of his Lordship's, giving an Account of a Dissolution of an Assembly, and the occasion thereof ; which is confirmed by a Letter of the Lords of Trade, dated *April* 25. 1715. which was wrote Lord *Hamilton* upon his being continued Governor, and sending him his new Commission

on and Instructions, wherein they tell his Lordship :

“ We have read and consider'd all your Lordship's to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, since your being in *Jamaica*, with the Papers therein referred to.

“ We very much approve your Lordship's punctual Correspondence, and should have been glad you had found the same from hence.

“ We concur with what the late Board of Trade wrote your Lordship, *June 21. 1714.* relating to the Assemblies adjourning themselves without your Leave, and refusing to let the Council mend Money Bills ; the good Disposition which is shewn here for the Support of *Jamaica*, make us hope, the Assembly will give you no such Ground of Complaint for the future, or treat your Character with such disrespect, as to put you under the Necessity of Proroguing them as they last did.

This Letter may serve to evince, that Lord *Hamilton* was not in the Interest of the late Ministry by their Neglect of him, (which brought him under many Difficulties in his Government) as also for a full Reply to some who endeavour to justify the last Assembly's Proceedings. And it may be safely advanced, That if Lord *Hamilton* be innocent of
Mr.

Mr. Page's *Spanish* Accusation, he is likewise of the long Accounts of Mal-Administration, even by this Letter, if he had had none since; and if the Lords of Trade could write thus in April 1715. what may not be supposed they would have wrote in April 1716, if they had considered the Proceedings of the last Assembly, and wrote Lord Hamilton thereupon; they would no doubt have agreed, That not any regard had been shewn to any thing recommended to the Assembly by the Governor, either as from himself, or from their Lordship's, nor in particular to his Majesty's most gracious Letter communicated to them. Some Paragraphs of which run thus:

“ Whereas the State and Condition of that
 “ our Island of *Jamaica*, having been laid be-
 “ fore us by our Commissioners for Trade
 “ and Plantations, we cannot from the great
 “ Regard we have for the Safety and Prospe-
 “ rity of an Island so Valuable for its own
 “ Produce and by its Situation for Trade,
 “ but express our Concern to find its Inhabi-
 “ tants so decreased, and Trade of late de-
 “ cay'd, whilst its vigilant Neighbours have
 “ omitted no Endeavours to increase and
 “ strengthen themselves in both. This Con-
 “ cern is the greater, when we observe, that
 “ there has not been that good Agreement
 “ in Assemblies, so necessary at all Times
 “ for Publick Happiness, but more especially
 “ at such a Juncture.

“ We

“ We cannot but expect from that our
 “ said Island a ready and chearful Comply-
 “ ance in making an honourable Provision
 “ for our Revenues, in discharging all Pub-
 “ lick Debts, and giving a necessary Subsist-
 “ ance to the Independent Companies there in
 “ our Pay ; till by the good Laws which shall
 “ be made for the encouraging the Increase
 “ of the Inhabitants, there be no further Oc-
 “ casion for them.

“ As we have been pleased to renew your
 “ Commission and Instructions, we expect
 “ you will continue your best Endeavours
 “ for the Advancement of these good Ends,
 “ which we hope will restore that our said
 “ Island to a flourishing Condition.

I had not taken notice of the Insinuations
 of the late Governor and Council's being in
 the Interest of the late Ministry, &c. if I
 had not been convinced (as much as I can
 well be of any thing) it was thereby in great
 measure the Turn of Government was effect-
 ed, by some Mens more zealously espousing
 it on such Account, than from any thing they
 knew for certain of any Acts of Mal-Admi-
 nistration or Piracies having been com-
 mitted.

If any one has a mind to inform him-
 self, who are the true Friends of *Jamaica*,
 I would advise him not to govern himself
 therein, in examining who are *Whigs* or who
 are

are *Tories* ; but who have been the Persons that have constantly endeavour'd the doing the Things recommended in his Majesty's Letter ; such are the Friends and Patriots of *Jamaica*, and Promoters of the Welfare and Prosperity of that Island.

I do not admit in saying this, that the late Governor or any of his Friends, are not as much in the Interest of the present Government, as Mr. *Beckford*, or any of his Friends. For I am sure they are, as certain as one can be of any such Matter ; but what I intend by it, is only to put those who have concurred in Things being lately done in respect to *Jamaica*, upon better understanding Men in, and the Transactions of that Island ; and also distinguishing them so as they may become consistent with themselves in their Actings, in respect to both for the future. For want of this, they have taken some Men for Promoters and Opposers of those very things in which they really acted the contrary part ; and that they would consider, as *Jamaica* has so few Inhabitants, the Scheme of *Whig* and *Tory* is not only too narrow and too dangerous to go upon by any Men that wish the Peace and Prosperity of that Island, but must have most unhappy Consequences, and entirely prevent the true Interest from being pursued. And tho it was the Scheme of a Gentleman, whose Influence was great in the Alteration made in the Council, yet it is very remarkable, so little did he know Persons, that it was neither strictly nor duly observed.

I may

I may appeal for the Truth of this to the most inveterate Enemy of my Lord *Hamilton*, or any of Mr. *Beckford's* Friends. And if Mr. *Beckford* has not been at the Head of Assemblies, who have insisted on a Power of adjourning for a Month or longer? Who have been against allowing the Soldiers an additional Subsistence? Who have refused raising or appropriating Money to discharge the Publick Debts? Who have order'd into Custody, and imprison'd so many of their Fellow-Subjects? Who have disputed the Council's mending Money Bills? And in fine, who have opposed every Thing recommended, either by Major-General *Handesbye*, or Lord *Hamilton*, during their Government? Which sufficiently justifies the Council in declaring, That Mr. *Beckford* was the chief Actor in all the unhappy Differences in the Country, and had opposed his Majesty's Government in all the Measures taken for its Service, and even his Majesty's own Instructions, and his gracious Letter.

The Writer of this Letter is not only in some Parts of it very mysterious and unintelligible, but uses many popular Words and Expressions; which when People are to be impos'd upon, and Dirt is to be thrown, is the right way; but you may be assured, he that Rails can't Reason, and he that makes use of Words without Meaning, has nothing to say; and what so proper for his Purpose as both, who undertakes to

D

clear

clear Mr. Beckford from the Council's Resolution.

Before he concludes, he is as well angry with others as the late Governor and Council, and gives us to understand, That *some of those who concurred, if not moved for that invidious Reflection, and two Jamaica Merchants in the City, that approve of its being dispers'd, have received considerable Sums of his Money.* You desire me to acquaint you who are the Persons meant, which I am not able to inform you, unless those in *Jamaica* are Gentlemen who have had a hand in, or been the Means of preserving his Life, and the Lives of some of his Family, and the two Merchants here, Gentlemen that had for some Years the Care of his Son, for whose Education they seldom or ever had sufficient in their Hands, and had a Ballance due to them when they parted from him.

It may be, Mr. Beckford is the most friendly Man this Writer may know in the World; and I think he is obliged to him for saying it, but more for not entering any further into his private Character; which I am prevented doing, by the perfect Knowledge the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* have thereof, together with the various Passages of his Life, whether in *Jamaica*, or other Parts of *America*, or in *France* or *Holland*.

I entirely agree with you, that if Mr. Benjamin Way had been alive, who was a Man
of

of great Resolution and Understanding, he would have been much more able, as indeed with more Reason, to set Mr. Beckford's Character to publick View, and prevent the Mischiefs a Man of his Ambition and Resentment may bring on his Country, than any Person of *Jamaica*, as having great Credit with, and an Influence over a Gentleman not inconsiderable in his Character in the City, whose Sollicitations, upon the Credit of Mr. Page, and others, have been of such Weight as to effect a Removal of the late Governor and Council, and occasion such extraordinary Orders to be sent to *Jamaica*, as is justly apprehended, will give a fatal Turn to the Inhabitants and Business of that Island.

Thus I have endeavoured from a regard to the *Peace and Quiet, Welfare and Prosperity* of *Jamaica*, the *Reputation and Credit, Character and Honour* of the late Governor and Council, to give an Answer to this long Letter; in which, if there be the least regard to *Decency, Justice, or Humanity*; if one good *Reason* in favour of Mr. Beckford; or one true *Fact* in the whole Letter; if there be any one *Page, one Sentence or Expression*, in which there is least *Candor, Equity, or Ingenuity*—I am content one such *Passage* should atone for all the rest; but if there be nothing of this, I submit it to the Wisdom of the Gentlemen of *Jamaica* to consider, what Notice such a *villanous* Letter deserves, that is filled with the most *absurd* and most *envenom'd* Lyes.

This is the Letter so much admir'd by Mr. March, and others, which if it can prevail against Truth and Justice, Mr. Beckford will be too hard for us; but if Truth and Justice can prevail against the falsest and blackest Calumnies, we may still hope to be too hard for him; and that the Things recommended by his Majesty will be immediately entred upon by an Assembly and brought to perfect Maturity, notwithstanding the factious Endeavours of those, who have never been satisfy'd with any Government. I am with great Truth and Respect,

S I R,

July 26.

1716.

Yours, &c.

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*EXTRACT from a Piece printed
some Months ago, or before Lord Ha-
milton's Removal; and a POST-
SCRIPT concerning Dr. Page.*

EXTRACT.

I Believe there is no reason to take Notice of all the idle Stories insinuated here by particular Men, to private Persons, against the Governor; as keeping the Publick Monies in his Hands, neglecting the Fortifications, and reporting, he will pass no Laws but what are agreeable to himself; since those Stories are without Foundation, and the Men who most effect them, are sensible of the contrary: but had the Assembly any Complaint to make against his Lordship, they would certainly have done so; and his Excellency by his Message to the Assembly the 8th of November, informed them of his Majesty's Pleasure in that behalf, in the following Words:

Mr. Speaker,

“ I am commanded by his Excellency to
“ acquaint the House, that he has communi-
“ cated to the Council the following Article
“ of his Instructions from his Majesty, he is
“ not conscious of having given any Occasion
“ of Complaint. But you will observe, that
“ it is by his Majesty's Command, that he is
“ obliged likewise to Communicate the same
“ to you.

“ You

“ You are to acquaint our Council and Assembly, that we think fit when any Complaint shall be intended against you, Notice shall be immediately given you thereof by the Complainants, with the Charge against you in Writing, to the end you may make timely preparations for your Defence.

The Assembly know they have no ground of Complaint, and only endeavour to render his Lordship uneasy in his Government; and if when a Governor abroad, in so distant a part of his Majesty's Dominions, by acting up to the Instructions of his Majesty, and behaving himself in so unexceptionable a manner, that Persons disposed to do him any Prejudice, cannot lay any thing to his Charge, shall suffer in his Reputation at home, from trivial Stories, without any known Abettor, and his Person and Character be used with Disrespect in that Country; those Posts will hereafter be very troublesome to the Persons employed, of very little Service to the King or Country, when from the Prejudices or Designing Views of particular Partizans, Governors must be Changed and Altered, because they are not pleased, without reasonable Objections made and proved against them: Which will wholly destroy the Authority of Government it self in those Parts, and be a constant Clamour, and endless Trouble to that part of the Ministry to whom the Care of the Plantations belong.

Upon the whole, 'tis submitted, whether 'tis not absolutely necessary, that some certain

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Methods be immediately entred upon for the Preservation and Incouragement of *Jamaica* at this Juncture; as well by securing the Island by Ships of War against any sudden Surprise, as effectually contributing what shall be further Necessary for their Quiet within themselves, and the making those good Laws so much wanted, for the better Peopling the Island, constantly recommended by my Lord *Hamilton*, to several Assemblies, without Effect on their Parts; and which his Majesty in his Letter says, is so much their Interest, and of so great Concernment to them to enter seriously and heartily upon, as one of the most effectual Recommendations to the Continuance of his Royal Favour and Protection.

POSTSCRIPT.

IT is advis'd from *Brissol*, that Dr. *Page*, (notwithstanding his giving out he went for *Jamaica* in the *Sarah*, Capt. *Jason*, from *London*) embark'd privately from thence in the *Port-Royal*, Capt. *Barton*, bound directly for *Jamaica*. I forbear remarking on this Man or his Conduct; but must not omit to acquaint you, That in *Jama* last, there was a Petition lodged in the Council-Office, praying, That *Samuel Page* and *Walter Ardlington*, (who is also gone privately for *Jamaica*) might enter into Securities before one of the Secretaries of State, for their Appearance to make good their Accusation on an Examination. Which Petition was referred to the Lords of Trade, who immediately made

2 Reports, That the Prayer of the said Petition was just and reasonable. As also, That Dr. Page swears, " That Don Juan l'Vallee, to his " several Memorials could receive no other " Answer from the Governor, than that the " Florida Shore was part of the King of Eng- " land's Dominions ; and that as the Spani- " ards had seiz'd on some English Vessels since " the Peace, the said Governor believed the " Spaniards were indebted to the English more " than those Spanish Effects would answer. And yet in the Minutes of the Council entered up by Page himself as Clerk of it, it appears, That Endeavours were used to get the Spaniards such Restitution, and give them such Satisfaction as was in my Lord Hamilton's Power, or in the Power of the Government of Jamaica ; and such Steps were taken towards doing both, as was even approved of by L'Vallee himself.

I have not an opportunity till I see Mr. — of sending you the Minutes which shew Mr. Page has sworn falsely ; nor any thing more to add, Than that Samuel Page, Esq; Secretary and Commissary of the Island of Jamaica, concludes his Affidavit with saying, " That his Cause of Know- " ledge in most of the Matters aforesaid, is, " That he was Secretary of the Island, as " also Clerk to the Council-Board of Jama- " ca, and as such, had an opportunity of " being conversant with the aforesaid Trans- " actions.

2 JY 61

F I N I S.

